

August 31, 2006

Validation Tool Alpha Test Status Phase I – Meeting to discuss the results and issues from the first phase of alpha testing.

### Attendees

Engineering (Dan Crichton, Steve Hughes, Sean Hardman, Emily Law, Ron Joyner, Paul Ramirez, Mike Cayanan, Mark Rose), Atmospheres (Lyle Huber), Geosciences (Susie Slavney, Dan Scholes), Imaging (Chris Isbell, Patty Garcia), PPI (Todd King), Rings (Mitch Gordon), Small Bodies (Anne Raugh, David Tarico), Program Management (Mike Martin)

### Issue Resolution

#### Issue 1 – PARAMETERS Group Definition

The current PARAMETERS group definition in the data dictionary is not valid ODL and results in an error when parsed by VTool. The immediate resolution for this problem is to change the OBJECT\_TYPE from GROUP (reserved word) to GENERIC\_GROUP.

While we are at it the class will be changed from SPECIFIC\_OBJECT\_DEFINITION to GENERIC\_OBJECT\_DEFINITION to better represent the object. This change has no impact on the existing tools (make\_index and lvtool).

#### Issue 2 – Support for File Objects

This issue has two aspects. The first is that VTool expected objects within a label to be uniquely named. Since that isn't the case, the tool will be modified to support multiple like-named objects in a label. The second aspect involves allowing sub-objects within the FILE object. The current FILE object definition in the data dictionary does not specify required or optional objects resulting in an error from VTool when sub-objects are encountered. LVTool allows sub-objects in this situation, but it is apparently not by design. The preferred solution is to enable this feature through the data dictionary definition for a given object. This issue has been forwarded to the Standards Coordinator for resolution.

#### Issue 3 – White Space Stripping

It was agreed that the steps provided in the presentation for stripping white space from a string-based value, for the purposes of comparing against a standard value list, should be performed by VTool. It was suggested that the Standards Reference be updated to inform label creators that values containing dashes (hyphens) should not be continued onto an additional line where the dash is the last character of the line being continued. This is due to the step involving the removal of a dash at the end of a continued line, which assumes the dash represents a break in a word.

#### Issue 4 – Quoting Values with Special Characters

It was agreed that the examples provided in the presentation should be quoted as specified in the Standards Reference. An additional test was performed after the meeting to verify that “N/A”, “UNK”, “NULL”, UNK, NULL were all accepted as valid values for numeric and date/time elements. This was the case for both VTool and LVTool.

#### Issue 5 – Quoted Values in General

It was agreed that values for elements of type identifier may be quoted whether it is necessary or not based on the presence of special characters. It was also agreed that values for elements of type integer, time, etc. may not be quoted. Quoted values for these types of elements should generate an error.

#### Issue 6 – Alias Support

It was the attendee’s overwhelming opinion that the use of aliases should be discouraged. Thus, VTool will provide a configurable option for enabling alias support. The default value for this option will be false, disabling support for aliases. The result of setting this option to false is that any occurrence of an element or object named with an alias will result in an element or object not found message, respectively.